



Ron Felix  
PRESIDENT

## Re: Innovative Technology Insertion (ITI) Program (Bill 1021)

March 5, 2013

My name is Ron Felix and I am the President of SPX Precision Components, which is located in Newington, Connecticut. We have approximately 180 employees in Connecticut, and the majority of those are highly compensated, technical jobs. I am writing in support of the proposed Innovative Technology Insertion (ITI) program; Bill 1021.

I can tell you without hesitation there are two challenges impacting the growth of manufacturing in Connecticut; we need to continually adopt advanced technologies to stay competitive and we need to develop and nurture a skilled workforce capable of effectively utilizing the advanced technology.

I am aware of two bills the Commerce Committee approved in prior sessions that have helped manufacturers conduct manufacturing process improvement projects to strengthen competitiveness of this important manufacturing sector. The proposed ITI will further strengthen our state's manufacturers by providing companies like mine access to advanced technology.

We were fortunate to engage with the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT) under the prior ITI pilot program; that provided us with valuable funding subsidies for a several important improvement projects. Highlights of the advantages to our business include:

- Reducing rough machining operation time by 27% on pitch shafts for the Chinook helicopter (for prime customer Boeing) and achieving a 15% reduction on finish machining operation for the same parts.
- Exploring Structure Light Scanning (SLS) for improved rapid, non-contact part inspection on F18 arrestor hookpoints; we are actively comparing the new inspection results to our existing Coordinate Measurement Machine (CMM) output to confirm accuracy and reliability.
- Actively working with CCAT to assist with adopting additive manufacturing processes on our Apache helicopter shaft repair work for the U.S. Department of Defense.

The above initiatives represent just a sample of our collaborations with CCAT to improve our machine processes, which results in critical cost savings and efficiency gains for our business. In turn, we then successfully meet customer cost savings requirements and position ourselves to aggressively win new work.

Approving funding for the continuation of the Innovative Technology Insertion (ITI) program will undoubtedly help us keep highly paid, technical jobs in Connecticut.

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Sincerely,

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President

SPX Precision Components